WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Deaths due to encephalitis in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh

*283. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that hundreds of persons died during September and October this year due to Encephalitis in the Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to check this disease ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) : (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, the number of deaths due to Japanese Encephalitis in Gorakhpur district during September-October, 1991 was 22 and 73 respectively.

The Government of Uttar Pradesh have reported that the following containment measures were undertaken:—

- Issue of Guidelines for prevention and control of Japanese Encephalitis to the District Health Authorities.
- Stocking adequate quantity of insecticide for vector control and medicines for management of Japanese Encephalitis cases.
- Intensive fogging operations in the affected areas.
- Arrangements for the timely transportation of patients to treatment centres.
- Deputing 3 teams to supervise arrangements for assisting the District Health Staff in the control of Japanese Encephalitis.

The Government of India has been providing assistance in the form of insecticide to the State Government for undertaking control measures.

The Indian Council of Medical Research is also assisting the Government of Uttar Pradesh through its field unit at Gorakhpur on various aspects relating to transmission and management of Japanese Encephalitis.

Project report on Central Research Insitute, Kasauli

*286. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received project reports from Central Research Institute (CRI), Kasauli in the year 1987 for indigenous production of oral polio vaccine and vaccine for Japanese Encephalitis; and

(b) by when the clearance is likely to be given ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project for production of Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) was scrutinised and it was not found feasible to start production of OPV at CRI, Kasauli due to lack of availability of adequate water supply which is required in huge quantity.

As regards vaccine for Japanese Encephalitis, the production of the same has already started in CRI, Kasauli during the year 1987-88.

Development of Ayurveda system of medicine

*287. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any plans to develop Ayurveda, the classical Indian system of medicine, in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;